



NECC students tell us
what they think about
Kesha and Dr. Luke.
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The iHealth building in
Lawrence offers a variety
of healthcare programs.
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NECC Dance club is
preparing for the spring
show.
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Northern Essex
Community College

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

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Spring 2016 • Volume 80 • Issue Number 4 • March 9, 2016

News Bytes

WATCH THE HARDBALL INTERVIEW WITH BERNIE SANDERS

Professor Paul Saint-Amand will be hosting a viewing and discussion of the Hardball Presidential College Tour interview with TV anchor Chris Matthews. The discussion will be held on the Haverhill campus today in TC103B from 11 a.m. until noon and at the Lawrence campus tomorrow in the Dimitri Atrium, also from 11 a.m. until noon. The discussion will include Sanders' plan for government funded tuition and his stand on foreign policy issues.

Light refreshments will be provided.

NEW ADMISSION AND ACADEMIC ADVISOR FOR REGIS COLLEGE AT NECC

Join Observer staff in welcoming Alexandra Gryta, MS as the new academic advisor for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Arts in Public Health, and post-licensure Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging programs. Her office is located in the Career Planning and Academic Advising Center in the El-Hefni building on the Lawrence campus. She can be reached at 781-768-8387 or alexandra.gryta@regiscollege.edu

NECC WILL BE BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS!

On Wednesday, March 23rd, the Department of Athletics and Recreation will be sponsoring a trip to the brand new Launch Trampoline Park in Methuen. The time is set from 4-5pm. Cost for current students, staff, and faculty is \$13 (includes jump socks). If you'd like to invite a friend or two, their cost is \$16 each (includes jump socks). Transportation will not be provided. Please see Maureen Saliba in D104 to sign up.

Gingerella resigns

*VP of administration
and finance has new
post at Rhode Island
College*

By JOWI MELI
Copy Editor

In a recent email written by NECC President Lane Glenn, it was announced that David Gingerella will be vacating his

position as the college's vice president of administration and finance, a post he has held since 2011. Glenn said that the move will allow Gingerella to be closer to his home and family.

Rhode Island's Council on Postsecondary Education voted to approve Gingerella for a position of the same name at Rhode Island College, where he is expected to begin at the end of March.

"I appreciate the many contributions to the college's financial stability, safety and security, facilities, and many other areas that David has made to NECC over the past five years," wrote Glenn in the email.

Glenn further said that a full search process for financial leadership will be conducted this spring, and that he expects to provide information on interim staffing soon.

STEM College for Kids moves to Quarrybrook

*Quarrybrook offers
exciting new courses
for summer program*

By OLIVIE ELEFTHERIOU
Correspondent

NECC's STEM College for Kids program has moved to a new location at Quarrybrook Outdoor Learning Center in Windham, NH. Quarrybrook is located on 245 acres of natural space, including hiking trails, vernal pools, and historical artifacts. The land is currently being managed by NECC.

STEM College for Kids focuses on science, technology, engineering, math and the arts. The new location means new courses for the kids such as Healthy Hiking, Nature Drawing, Environmental Testing and Spa Science.

"I am really excited for this summer to start. This program already is so enjoyable for the kids and enjoyable for all of us that we are so happy to expand," STEM worker Madison Lewis stated.

STEM College for Kids will run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offers programs for ages 9 to 14. There are four, one-week programs consisting of three sessions (morning, midday, and afternoon) each day beginning July 11.

Transportation to and from Quarrybrook will be available from NECC's Riverwalk location for fulltime students for an extra \$25 per week. "This is such a convenience because a lot of people have a hard time with rides, work



Photos courtesy of NECC newsroom
Quarrybrook offers 245 acres of natural space where kids will take part in a variety of environmentally friendly activities, including hiking and outdoor games.



schedules and other situations," said student Morgan Strangman. For additional information, contact College4Kids@necc.mass.edu or call 978-556-3326,

or, to download a registration form, visit the STEM College for Kids website at necc.mass.edu/community-engagement/college-for-kids/.

What's Happening?

Spring Break! Mar. 14 - 18

The submission deadline
for the Peace Poetry
Contest is Mar. 15

The submission deadline
for Parnassus is Mar. 22

Library hours during
Spring Break are as
follows:

Fri., March 11 -
Haverhill will close at 4:00
p.m.
Lawrence will close at
3:00 p.m.

Mon., March 14 thru
Thu., March 17
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fri., March 18 -
Haverhill will close at 4:00
p.m.
Lawrence will close at
3:00 p.m.

The library will resume
normal hours on Monday,
March 21.

The Academic Placement
& Testing Center Hours
for Spring Break week are
as follows:

Haverhill TC-128
Walk-in Testing Time
Mon., March 14 -
Thu. March 17
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
and
Fri., March 18, at 9:00
a.m. only

Lawrence L-135
Walk-in Testing Time
Mon., March 14 -
Thu. March 17
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
and
Fri., March 18, at 9:30
a.m. only

for more information,
visit www.necc.mass.edu/academics/testing/assessment/test-dates/

Editorial

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Letter: Observer staff incompetent

Editor,

The Observer, the award winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, has failed the students, faculty, and greater community it is supposed to serve. In the February 24, 2016 issue of the paper there were a number of errors so fundamental to publishing a newspaper, that it exposes some combination of gross apathy, willful disregard of duty, and stunning ignorance on the part of the Editorial staff.

The Opinions section is one half, the other being News, of the foundation upon which a newspaper is built. In a college newspaper the Opinions section is a place for exploring important beliefs and values as well as sharing new ideas with the community. It is the voice of the community, and a place to reflect. While the News section is supposed to be pure objective reporting, the Opinions section is where that news gets interpreted, broken down, and placed into the community conversation. The Opinions section is where critical thinking lives.

The whole of this issues Opinion section, outside of the Editorial which I will address shortly,

was dedicated to the article, "Tutorial: Do-it-yourself Spa Day." This is a complete and utter failure of journalistic integrity, and a failure of duty to the community. There was a time when the Opinions section was vibrant with the voices of students and faculty. A time when important ideas were discussed and explored in its pages. In its place now is the essence of vapidness, and the Staff should be ashamed that this was allowed to happen. This is made even more galling by the fact that we are in the middle of a landmark election year, that is shaking the very core of the American political establishment, on both sides of the isle. Given all that, and all the contentious and powerful issues we face in modern American society, the best the Opinions section is capable of delivering in a how-to guide for an in home spa day? The is ridiculous and insulting to the readership.

On top of that to then have the papers Editorial be written in the first person, as part of a Letter to the Editor? Does the staff of The Observer not understand that an Editorial is the unsigned opinion of the newspaper itself? Do they not understand that Letters to the Editor should be kept apart from

other articles? Do they not understand that something written in the first person should at least be signed by someone? I honestly don't know how individuals put in charge of an award winning newspaper could not be aware of the fundamental rules for putting one together. Further, if they are aware, then how did this happen? Did no one in the process from conception to publishing stop and think, "maybe this is a bad idea?"

For the Opinion piece on home spa days to be published, an almost comical series of repeated failures of basic competence had to have occurred. The Opinions Editor, Rachael Sarcione, had to fail to realize the piece shouldn't be in her section. Then the Copy Editor, Jowi Meli, needed to fail to recognize that the piece shouldn't be in that section. Finally, the Editor in Chief, Kim Whiting, who is ultimately at fault for this debacle, had to completely fail in her job to see that not only did this piece not belong in the Opinions section, but that both her Opinions Editor, and her Copy Editor seemed to not have a firm grasp on what exactly their job is. I can only hope that some member of the staff raised this concern, but was overruled. Did

this happen because of ignorance or apathy? Either way, The Observer owes the NECC community an apology for a total failure of quality control and journalistic ethics.

The Observer is one of the first things people who come to the school will see. For many who don't attend clubs or activities on campus it is the only way they will ever engage with the rich, diverse, and vibrant community at NECC. For some, the columns in the Opinion section represent the best chance for engagement with new ideas that will challenge their own beliefs, the very purpose of higher education. In all respects The Observer didn't just fail its own national award winning heritage, it failed the NECC students and faculty, and it failed the other Observer staff Editors who are competently running their sections. The paper is only as strong as its weakest links, and this edition exposed some very weak links indeed.

My name is Daniel Potocki, I've been a student at NECC since the fall of 2006. In my time at the college, I have been in Student Senate, the President of Contemporary Affairs, the Opinions Editor of The Observer, and the Edi-

tor in Chief of The Observer. I am in the unique position of knowing exactly what is required of the Editorial Staff, and how difficult the job is, because it was a job I did for several years.

I'm writing today, as a former Editor in Chief, to express my sadness and frustration at what has become of the newspaper I used to run. As the voice of direct experience, I implore Sarcione, Meli, and Whiting to consider if they are really qualified and suited for the positions they hold on staff. For instance if Sarcione wants to write these kinds of articles then maybe she would be better suited in a different position on the paper. I ask The Observer staff to look back and try and figure out what series of events lead to such a complete failure of the basics. Then they need to go back and relearn the fundamentals of running an Opinions section so they can actually serve their community, and stop tarnishing the reputation of the paper that means so much to so many.

With respect and disappointment,

Daniel Potocki, former Editor in Chief of The NECC Observer

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

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The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

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STAFF WRITER : Now Hiring
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FACULTY ADVISER : Mary Jo Shafer

Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now? Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to observer@necc.mass.edu.

Publication Schedule

issue #	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
5	March 23	March 19
6	April 6	April 2
7	April 27	April 23
8	May 11	May 7

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

Send your letters to observer@necc.mass.edu

We try to publish all letters we receive, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we receive.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advertisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Roaming Reporter

What's your hangover remedy?



"Don't drink."

RACHEL DiSTEFANO
Psychology



"Drink water while you drink."

MATT DAY
CAD Engineering



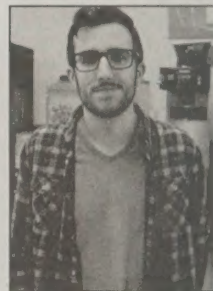
"Going for a nice jog."

JESSICA FIGUEROA
Movement Science



"Tylenol and hydrate."

BRANSCOMBE DUBINA
Civil Engineering



"If I feel sick, I just program."

DAN POUMAKIS
Computer Science



"I drink more alcohol."

CONNOR HENDRY
Criminal Justice

Opinion

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iHealth is a true stepping stone

Programs offer the skills desired by today's employers.

By TRAVIS BARRETT
Correspondent

Throughout our school days we pass by dozens of bulletin boards that promote new opportunities for students to take part in. How often do we really stop and focus on them? How often do we really check out these innovative, new encounters that can expand our horizons? Probably not too often, but if you're a General Studies student or just someone who's unsure of what they want to do, you might want to check the fliers out there for the iHealth programs offered on the Lawrence campus at 52 Franklin St.

So, what exactly is iHealth? And why would you want to choose iHealth?

“It's a unique way to take classes.

- Linda Comeau

For one, it's an opportunity to get hands on training in a variety of different health sciences from people who are experts in their field. If you are interested in becoming a nurse, health care technician, phlebotomist, EKG technician, community health worker or a certified aide, they have educational programs for you.

According to Linda Comeau, associate director of iHealth recruitment and admissions, members of the program use the state-of-the-art equipment they'll actually use in the field.

“It's a unique way to take

classes,” said Comeau. “You need good self-discipline to succeed.”

Students in the program mostly work full time jobs and go to class one or two nights a week. iHealth has programs that meet twice a week for eight weeks. They are “cohort” classes that meet once a week to achieve the same goal. The schedule is flexible to the student. This is why iHealth is so successful for their students, they cater to their schedule and that helps them succeed.

“Student success rate is very high and they are usually hired right away because they gain the real-work experience they need with us,” said Comeau. When signing up you will have to go to their website and fill out a submissions form or directly go to them and they will get you started in the program. Depending on the career you're after, you may have to take other classes that associ-



Photo courtesy of NECC

The iHealth building on the Lawrence campus is host to a number of different health care programs.

ate with your major. For instance, if you're interested in medical billing, you will need math courses to graduate.

Many students say they don't know much about the program.

“I really don't hear anyone talking about it a lot. I guess it's because I'm only at the Haverhill campus,” Joel Johnston, a Journalism/Communication major, said. “This is the problem: stu-

dents who are unsure of the major they want to take don't know much about this program from the Haverhill side.”

Kathleen Coughlin, an iHealth alum, said, “I was pleasantly impressed with how accommodating and helpful everybody is at iHealth.”

She earned her degree in a little over a year while working and being a full time mom.

“I was pleasantly impressed...”

- Kathleen Coughlin



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News

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Kesha vs. Sony: An ongoing battle

NECC students react to the controversy sweeping the entertainment world.

By EMILY MARSDEN
Correspondent

Pop star Kesha and her music producer Dr. Luke, who allegedly raped her, have been filling up the tabloids these past couple of weeks, as a judge denied her an injunction that would have released her from her contract with Sony.

Reportedly, Dr. Luke abused Kesha for years, beginning shortly after she signed a record deal with him in 2006, and then not only threatened to destroy her career, but also her and her family's physical safety, if she spoke to anyone about it.

Fans and artists including Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Kelly Clarkson have displayed their support for Kesha, claiming that no one deserves the abuse that she suffered.

The case brings attention to rape culture and is stirring up mixed and emotional thoughts of people across the country.

Many students at Northern Essex also show their undeniable support for Kesha, while others are skeptical of the singer's intentions.

"Sony is not only being unjust with Kesha, but is teaching our men that it's acceptable to rape," says Zobia Tariq, who has been avidly keeping up with the legal battle. "We live in a world where women are taught to avoid getting raped, when, instead, men should be being taught to keep

their hands to themselves."

According to the Department of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an astounding one in six women have experienced some form of sexual assault, while only one in 33 men have experienced it. 35% of rapes are committed by a work partner.

"It's completely unfair," says Adore Calixto. "Dr. Luke has been called out by several artists about how difficult he is to work with. He is definitely guilty and Sony is disgusting for allowing this to continue."

Other students believe that this is Kesha's attempt to get herself back out there and gain attention, as the pop singer does have a questionable past.

"If you follow the case, you'll know that early on in the investigation, she denied the rape claims," says Jacob Diaz. "And now she's saying that it really happened, several years later after she hasn't been making any music. To me, it just sounds like an effort to make a name for herself again."

In 2011, Kesha and Luke were both sued by a manager, and under oath at the deposition, Kesha denied the allegations that her mother made about Dr. Luke sexually harassing her, testifying that they never had any sexual relations.

All she wants is to create music without being under the hands of her abuser.

- Adore Calixto

"Maybe she wants to get out of her contract and is going to the extreme to get there, or maybe her and Dr. Luke had a disagreement so now she is blackmailing him. Kesha seems emotionally unstable, so neither would surprise me," explains Kevin Made Brito.

"I don't have doubts at all," Tariq claims. "She would have produced her music if she wanted attention. Why would she want negative attention when she could have money and attention for producing her music?"

"All she wants is to create music without being under the hands of her abuser," Calixto adds. "She's clearly suffering."

Now, Kesha has the option to continue recording with Sony and make a third album, without the interference of Dr. Luke, or she could choose not to record with the label but pay damages to them, estimating around \$15 billion.

Sony could also release Kesha after she makes her third album, as multi-album deals have a contractual option, which allows producers to decide if they want to pick up the next album after one is finished.

The next steps in the case include each side turning in their demands for discovery evidence in the suit by March 21.

Any objections to those requests are due the following month.

According to the court's schedule, this is simply an initial step towards Kesha getting her day in court, as the judge is not set to pick her trial date until the beginning of 2017.



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Kesha, known for her flamboyant flare on stage is now at the center of an ongoing controversy with Sony.

Security Log



Information unavailable

Press release: Global scholars program begins this fall

This upcoming fall semester at NECC, students will have the opportunity to participate in the new and unique Global Scholars program.

This program is being orchestrated by the International Studies office and will give students the chance to earn a Global Scholars diploma designation and to become "global citizens," which means they will be more knowl-

edgeable and involved with the world around them.

The program is based on a point system, in which students who earn 100 points receive the designation. 25 points are earned from classes designated as "Global Awareness Intensive" under NECC's Core Academic Skills, which are required for all students.

The remaining points are

earned from classes, events and activities like Study Abroad, Anime Club or taking a foreign language course. For each activity completed, students complete a very short reflection essay turned in through Blackboard.

For more information, students should email the International Studies office at studyabroad@necc.mass.edu.

Where to find security:

Haverhill Campus
100 Elliott St.,
TC building
978.556.3689

Riverwalk Campus
360 Merrimack St.
Bldg. 9, Entry K, Floor 3
978.659.1200

Lawrence Campus
45 Franklin St. main lobby
978.738.7499

Lawrence Ext. Campus
78 Amesbury St.
main lobby
978.738.7699

News

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Chilled items are crammed into the Coca-Cola cooler.

Photo by Kelly Schwing

Jitters improvises to provide

Jitters Cafe continues to serve NECC community, despite broken cooler

By KELLY SCHWING
News Editor

Business at Jitters Cafe took a hit this past week after their grab-and-go cooler broke down.

"It's not keeping things cold," said Melissa Merrill, NexDine employee, the morning of Feb.

29.

The NexDine workers had no other choice but to take all the chilled items usually found in the cooler and relocate them to the Coca-Cola cooler near the toasting station.

Items originally found in the Coca-Cola cooler had to be re-

moved and placed in the NexDine office across the hall.

"I think it's having an effect on business," said Merrill.

Jitters staff members noticed an issue and immediately called to have the cooler repaired.

Jitters prides itself on being the fast and convenient option for students, faculty and staff running through the Spurk Building.

Their signs around campus advertise "fast fresh menu options" to fuel people while they're on campus. Merrill said the cooler being out of order was an interruption of the cafe's convenience.

Barry Towle, manager of the cafe, noticed a slow in the flow of traffic into the cafe. He said, "I think we lost some sales."

Jessica Brewster, another NexDine employee, said, "People don't see things in that cooler, they're just going to walk out. They're not going to look around for a Coke cooler, because food shouldn't be in a Coke cooler."

Jitters staff put a sign directing traffic from the grab-and-go cooler over to the Coca-Cola cooler and Brewster said she saw some people taking note and searching through the Coca-Cola cooler.

She said the sign only boosted business a "little bit."

The cooler was fixed by an outside vendor late on the morning of March 2.

Business is "100 percent better," with the cooler being fixed said Merrill, "it's wonderful."

Jitters is open for business 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

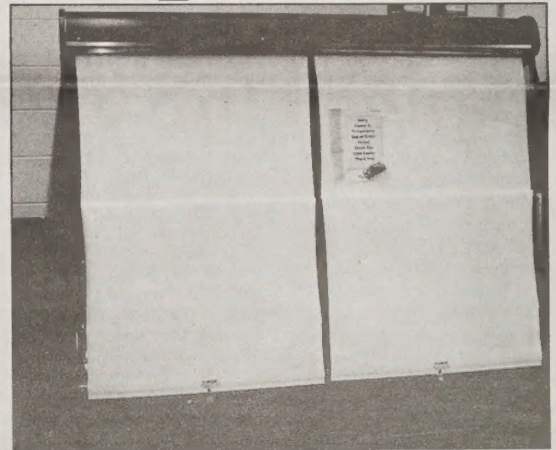


Photo by Kelly Schwing

Jitters' grab-and-go cooler adorning a sign asking patrons to look for chilled food in the Coca-Cola cooler.



Photo by Kelly Schwing

The Coca-Cola cooler packed with chilled food items as the grab-and-go cooler awaited repair.



Photo by Kelly Schwing

The sign put on the grab-and-go cooler reading, "Sorry cooler is temporarily out of order please check the Coke cooler thank you."

Arts & Entertainment

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Theatre major dances through life

Student found his confidence on the dance floor

By REBECCA WESTERMAN

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Armando Belliard-Harmon, 3rd semester theatre major at NECC, got involved with theatre at a very young age, bonding with his grandmother watching golden age movie adaptations of musicals.

"Singing in the Rain," "White Christmas," and works by Ben Crosby is what sparked the fire for him to become a multi-dimensional singer, actor and dancer.

Inspired by these icons, Harmon began participating in middle school theatre. "I've gotten comfortable with both singing and dancing."

In high school, I did show choir as well as all 3 [singing, dancing, and acting] but primarily it was singing and dancing. I can say that helped me a lot, skill-wise and also just overall being comfortable with myself," said Harmon.

At NECC, Harmon has been a part of the production of King Lear, playing the role of Edmund, the scheming and malicious illegitimate son of Gloucester. "I've participated in the [Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival] KCACTF,

which is more oriented around the individual, where they have a lot of workshops for the entire week at a select campus.

This time it was at Western Connecticut State University and I was blown away by all the energy and the talent.

Each day was crazy because you wake up, workshop-workshop-workshop-show.

You auditioned for several different professional companies that were there, and also there were some shows that were being judged," said Harmon.

Two students from NECC succeeded past the preliminary auditions, Hunter Gouldthorpe and Abigail Seabrook.

Harmon became involved in dance at NECC while getting his general education requirements satisfied. "I really didn't know where I wanted to put my time in outside of the general education requirements and I thought to myself, what do they [NECC] have to offer... dance, theatre... I couldn't get into any dance classes with my schedule," said Harmon.

Serendipitously, he met Nina Cabral in a theatre class. Cabral is a dance major at NECC who started helping Harmon hone his ballet skills one-on-one. "As time went on, we thought, well why don't we start adding people to this small kind of class," said Harmon.

The class is a beginner bal-

let class that started at NECC's dance studio and has traveled to Cabral's studio where she recreationally dances and teaches other classes. "It's really grown into something and I can definitely say I've learned a lot from her."

I just feel more confident now if I were to go to an audition that required dancing," Harmon.

Harmon said that he doesn't often feel any stigma attached to being a male dancer, partly because it is not as uncommon in his social circle, but that he simply doesn't supply information to people about his dancing if they don't ask.

Hip-hop is a more popular style of dance for the guys, and more modern styles of dancing, which all relate back to the foundational aspects of ballet. "I realized that ballet was one of the harder things, it's kind of like the grammar of dance."

Once you get a good basis you understand the whole thing which is the vocabulary, and you go to all these auditions and they say 'oh you need to do a pirouette. It could be a jazz or modern audition and I'll get it."

I wish there was a stronger support all around for other guys to feel comfortable. I always tell my friends who are also in the theatre department to come to the ballet class because it is challenging," said Harmon.



Photo by Kelly Schwing
Armando Belliard-Harmon is an NECC theatre major.

Dance club caters to every skill level

NECC Dance Club welcomes members, even those who have no previous dance experience

By REBECCA WESTERMAN

Arts and Entertainment Editor

NECC's dance club is shaking things up during their rehearsal for the spring recital in the Sport and Fitness Center.

Every Monday, a handful of students from all different

majors and skill levels gather to learn funky new dance moves, or sometimes keep it classical with the integration of classical ballet influences.

Michelle Dean, a dance teacher at NECC, leads the club, putting the members through the warm up, and rehearsing over and over again in preparation for the big show.

A passersby may hear "...and 5, 6, 7, 8!" walking by as the dancers move in staggered synchronization across the studio.

The Dance Club is really welcoming to beginners, especially those who want

to take on the challenge of learning new styles of dance.

Grant Bellino, philosophy major, got started with the dance club simply because he has always wanted to dance.

On a spur-of-the-moment decision, he signed up for the club. "It's been extremely difficult because I've never been extremely coordinated. I've played several sports but dance is just so much... all the choreography. I love it!" said Bellino, "when it all comes together and you're feeling it, at first it's kind of fragmented when you're learning new moves and everything but once it comes to-

gether and you're doing it automatically it's an awesome feeling."

One of the veteran dancers, Nina Cabral, dance major, commands stage presence even when behind the other dancers. Lively moving across the floor, she makes the spectators want to follow her movements.

Because Dance club is open for all skill levels, Cabral gets just as much out of it as a beginner. She began dancing at age 13, when her mother didn't know what to do with all of her frenetic energy, dancing all over the house, so she enrolled her in a summer ballet intensive, and Cabral was

in love. "I wanted to do all the dancing that is physically possible here [at NECC] because I'm not dancing enough. My favorite part about the dance club is that you get a warm up before you start dancing, but also I really just enjoy Michelle's teaching style."

She really makes sure it's good for all levels. I'm a higher level than, like, everyone else in the class, but I really like that Michelle alters it for everyone. I really appreciate that, because it's a hard thing to do.

It's hard to have a class for all levels," said Cabral.



Photo by Kelly Schwing

Dance instructor, Michelle Deane (front) leads a mixed-skill level dance class in their rehearsal for the upcoming Spring show.



Photo by Kelly Schwing

Veteran dance club member, Nina Cabral, warms up and stretches in preparation for dance class.

Campus Life

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Veterans' club struggles on campus

Despite attempts to advertise, little to no interest generated

By CHAD GORHAM
Campus Life Editor

The Veterans and Service Persons Organization on campus is struggling to gain new members at their meetings and events.

The VSO helps all veterans and service people with different issues they face that civilians might not understand and provides information on veterans' benefits they might be overlooking.

They even take part in the Boots to Books program, which provides tutoring in English and math for its members and provides volunteering and fundraising opportunities.

John Caswell, the VSO president this year, said, "We offer tutoring services in math and English. When the previous president, Justin Merced, offered this service in semesters past we had a few students take part, and they expressed positive feedback."

One of the difficulties the club is having is with their recruiting. They have done everything that

every other club does at NECC to gain people, such as hanging fliers and using the college's email system to make students aware of the club, but those efforts are not working.

Caswell said, "Difficulties include assistance with advertising and the methods of advertising we have gone about."

Since NECC is a commuter school, most students just come to campus for their classes and leave when they are done.

A lot of them do not have time to attend extracurricular activities. This has forced Caswell to think out of the box when it comes to advertising.

"In previous weeks we have tried email notifications, television broadcasts, and person to person exchange of information," he said.

"As of yet, we have been unsuccessful generating interest."

One of the last events that is available to veterans and service

people that the VSO was telling everyone about was on March 2. The seminar was about recognizing the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, and was held at the Veterans Center in Haverhill.

This event went out on one of the emails that go to the entire school, which might seem like a great way to get people's atten-

tention, but these don't seem to work because students' inboxes seem to be flooded with them.

Ray Florent, an Elementary Education major, said, "I'm not a huge fan of the blast emails. I rarely read them because they are usually so saturated with stuff that is unnecessary. I hate dealing with them."

Students are more likely to be involved in campus life if they

participate in extracurricular activities, and they also get to reap the benefits that each club has to offer. Victoria Gonzalez, a Business Management major, said, "I feel like students are missing out (by) not being part of this club."

"We all have veterans in our classes at one point or another. They should be aware of this club."

When a club is first formed, it is required to have 10 students sign up for it to start the process of becoming a club. Over the past two

years the numbers have been nowhere near that. In the spring of 2015, the club had only four members. For most of the 2015-2016 the club has only had one member.

"The VSO numbers are extremely unfortunate, but from what I hear, year to year the numbers can (vary)," said Florent.

"It is a shame, though, that more aren't getting involved with

it this year."

Caswell was part of the VSO last year as the secretary, and in that time has seen the interest in the club fall to almost zero.

"Numbers began to fall during the fall semester 2015," he said. "During the spring semester 2015, we had four VSO members, with Jeff Williams as our adviser. Since the other three have left last spring, we have been unable to recruit any new members to the VSO."

Students who are interested in joining the VSO can attend the meetings, which are held every Wednesday from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. in the Student Center in room SC-214. Caswell wants anyone interested in the club not to be deterred from joining if the time does not work in their schedule.

Caswell said, "Pending feedback, the VSO can alter the meeting date and time based on the needs of our club members. Students who join the VSO will receive top-quality access to benefits and health-care services. In addition, there will be opportunities to work alongside their fellow veterans in the local community."

Club gives African students a place to call their own

By LUCY KIGATHI
Correspondent

Africa has many countries, cultures, traditions and languages, and many students from NECC share in these commonalities. One such student, 20-year-old Fola Mudasiru from Nigeria, helped organize an African student club on campus.

On why he saw a need to do so, he said, "It was a way to bring more Africans together and know our cultures better."

Mudasiru puts effort into texting or emailing each new member to remind them of the weekly meetings, which are on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m.

When students arrive, they introduce themselves and where they are from, and share the backgrounds that have led them to NECC.

"It's great to see that there are other students just like you who come from Africa and we can share something, especially being from a different country,"

said club member Daniella Mukambi.

In the next week's meeting, the club plans on having a guest, who is currently attending Kenya's Nairobi University. Via Skype, the student will answer any questions about life in Kenya and the differences between the college education there and in the United States.

Members are always encouraged to bring any traditional food or items to share during the meetings.

the NECC community and the world," according to an email sent to all students and faculty.

On March 2, the Technology Center suddenly became a tour around the globe. There were posters from places like Japan, Egypt and even Haiti. Students designed the posters with their respective country's colors, flags and pictures of famous landmarks. There was also free food from each place that would help everyone taste a sam-

ple of what the country is really like.

Food selections included spaghetti and meatballs from Italy, sushi from Japan, meat and chicken patties from Haiti and dessert pastries from Greece.

As he enjoyed the meal, 22-year-old student Victor Mwangi said, "This is a great way to learn about other parts of the world, see where we all come from, get a taste and really learn from each other."

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International Festival gives students a taste of the globe

By LUCY KIGATHI
Correspondent

Walking through NECC's halls, students and staff can't help but notice the diversity all around them: in the classrooms are people from all over the world.

The Student Engagement Center created an event to put a spotlight on the many cultures around in the school. Called the International Festival, it encouraged students to "celebrate the diversity seen within

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Student's goal is to join Peace Corps

Transfer student has plans to travel and join the Peace Corps

By SHAINA RICHARDS
Features Editor

Courtney Spero is a 20-year-old Liberal Arts major in her sophomore year who radiates enthusiasm and optimism about her future.

She transferred to NECC after a semester at Emmanuel College due to the high cost of living in Boston. Spero's parents are both deaf, which resulted in Spero's first language becoming American Sign Language.

She originally intended to become an ASL interpreter, but ended up deciding against continuing in the Deaf Studies Program.

She went to a meeting where professors discussed what it takes to be a sign language interpreter. Spero has been interpreting her entire life, so she knew how to do it effectively and with ease.

At this meeting, she realized that she would literally just be relaying messages without being able to interfere at all in conversations.

"I realized I'm too opinionated for this," she said. "I can still do jobs, I'm just not a certified interpreter."

Certification is not actually a federal requirement; the Americans with Disabilities Act requires individuals in need of interpreting services to receive

them from qualified interpreters, which federal regulations define as someone who "is able to interpret effectively, accurately and impartially both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary."

She decided that it made more sense for her to continue to do interpreting jobs on the side and

is described as a fully inclusive workplace where everyone's abilities and skills are appreciated. It is a federal agency with different programs for individuals based on their major.

By volunteering through the Peace Corps, Courtney hopes to take advantage of leadership experience and possibly even

“

I want to backpack through Europe. It's my long term goal.

- Courtney Spero

”

pursue a career that she could see herself really being passionate about in the future.

She was going to transfer to Middlesex Community College because it's closer to her, but she decided to stay at NECC despite the longer commute because she loved the community.

Currently, she's taking a photography class to get more experience, since it has been an interest of hers for a while.

As for what's next? "I want to go to the Peace Corps," Spero said. In this regard, it made sense for her to continue to pursue her education for the time being since applicants have to be 21 and an associate's degree is required for most positions.

The Peace Corps is an international service organization, which

launch a career.

"There are different programs, so you can help through improving water systems, food, or agriculture in different countries," she said.

She plans on going to a Peace Corps meeting to talk to people and hear about their experience, and is considering eventually pursuing a job in photojournalism, which would allow her to engage in something she's passionate about while also helping people.

Another one of Spero's personal goals is to travel the world for the purpose of learning about and taking pictures of people in different cultures. She has been doing a lot of research, including watching single women who travel, but is debating whether



Photo by Shaina Richards

Courtney Spero, a transfer student at NECC, in the lobby of the Spurk Building.

she wants to do it alone.

"I want to backpack through Europe," she said. "It's my long-term goal before I get settled down. I've never been anywhere except the Caribbean and Mexico, but that was with my family and it was a planned trip."

Her dad has a friend who lives in Germany, and she has a family

friend who lives in France; both have invited her to come any time, so she feels confident that she would have places to go.

"I have these options. Just the rest that I want to see in between is uncharted territory. It's going to happen eventually. It has to," she said.

Reuters interviews Professor Padova

NECC professor is interviewed by news agency

By CLEO BRIGHAM
Staff Writer

When NECC's Director of Public Relations, Ernie Greenslade, was approached by international news agency, Reuters, about speaking with a professor who's knowledgeable about the New Hampshire primary, she put them in contact with Richard Padova.

Padova has been an adjunct professor in NECC's global studies department since January of 2005. He is a graduate of NECC, Salem State College, Northeastern University, and is currently working towards a second master's degree at Salem State University.

In addition to teaching history, government, geography and politics at NECC, Padova is on the Board of Directors of the Lawrence History Center and the Service Center of Greater Lawrence, Inc.

He is also a member of the Andover Historical Society, the Friends of Memorial Hall Library in Andover, the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park,

the American Political Items Collectors, the St. Alfio Society of Lawrence and the NECC Alumni Advisory Board.

During the summer, Padova provides historical walking tours at Lawrence Heritage State Park. His latest tour explored Robert Frost's life in Lawrence.

Reuters reporter, Gavino Garay, visited Padova's home on Feb. 6 to talk about the New Hampshire primary, and to view his collection of historical campaign memorabilia. His collection includes buttons, bumper stickers, brochures, posters and more.

The items in his collection range from Franklin Pierce's campaign in 1853 up through and including the 2016 campaigns. Padova explained that memorabilia from before 1852 is difficult to acquire as it's not very abundant.

Padova started collecting while attending Lawrence High School during the 1976 election between Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Reflecting on the start of his collection, Padova said, "I started out with one campaign button for George Wallace." He currently has a spare bedroom at his home with a lot of items on display.

Padova explained that the American Political Items Collectors (APIC) sponsors collectible shows around the country. New Hampshire's chapter of APIC held a show in NECC's technology center on Feb. 14. Padova stated that these shows are a great way to pick up memorabilia as there are multiple dealers that attend. Online political auction houses such as USAmericana, Old Political Auctions and Hake's are also helpful in collecting political memorabilia.

"I guess I just liked the idea that you can go to a rally or walk into a campaign headquarters and just see all this information out there available on the candidates," he stated.

In addition to showcasing his collection, Padova provided analysis about the history of the nation's first primary, and how it got started. He also provided insight on current candidates and how they're campaigning.

"It's as if the NH voters are doing the preliminary work for the rest of the country," Padova told Reuters, "They begin the weeding out process and they see themselves as doing a good job at that."

He also touched on styles of campaigning like retail politics,



Photo by Shaina Richards

NECC professor Richard Padova who is an adjunct professor in NECC's global studies department.

and working at the grassroots level.

Padova's political analysis is no stranger to the media, as he has been quoted several times in the Eagle Tribune as well as the Lowell Sun on various political issues and events.

The abbreviated version of the

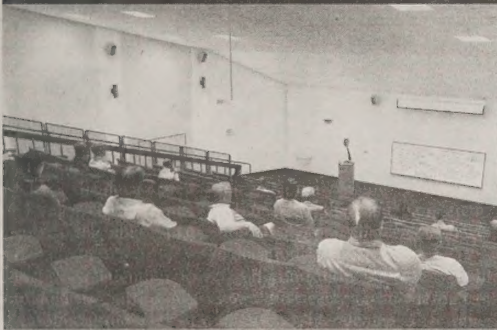
Reuters article, published Feb. 7, is titled "New Hampshire marks 100 years of primaries".

Accompanied by a video of Padova's collection, the article features quotes from Padova as well as N.H. Deputy Secretary of State David Scanlan.

More

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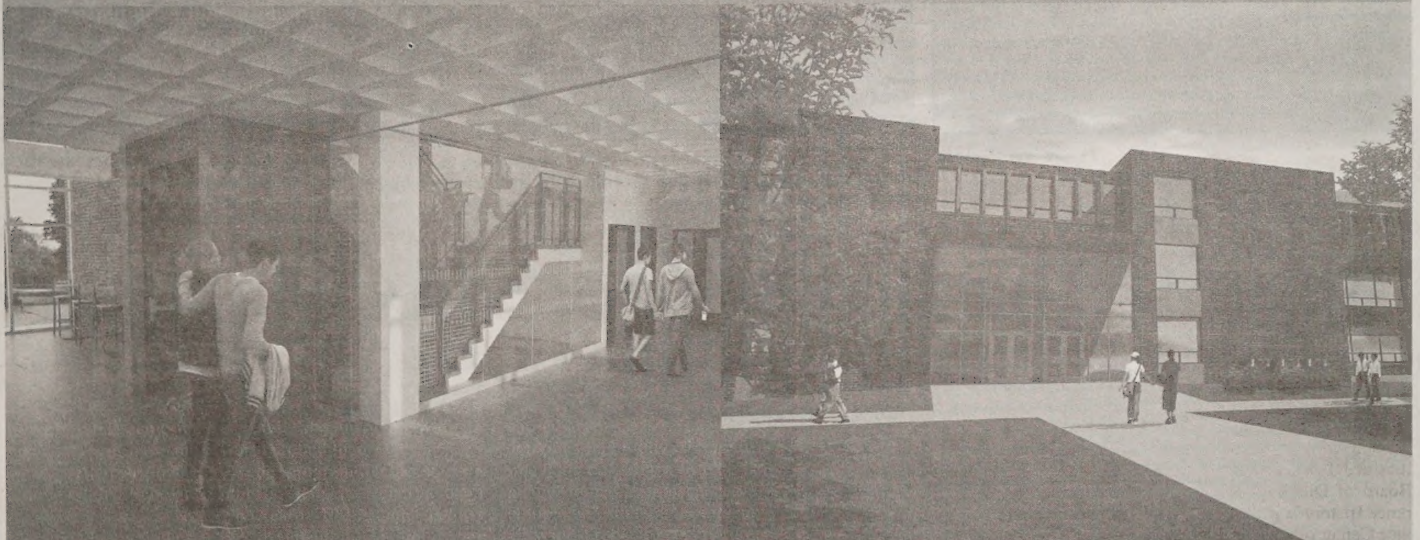
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Knights win first round playoff game, fail to win in second round

Basketball team loses in round 2 despite great season

By KYLE BENSON
Sports Editor

After ending the regular season with a 17-10 record, the Knights lost in the first round of the MCCAC tournament, but were right back on the court at home for the Region 21 playoffs. Their opponent was Springfield Tech, a team the Knights beat both of the times they met in the regular season.

It was the most important home game of the season. The team's mascot, the NECC Knight, was even out there for the first time this season. The team huddled around each other and got ready for the biggest game of the year.

The Knights won the tip-off but Springfield Tech scored the first point of the game, scoring on a free throw attempt less than a minute into the match. NECC came right back, though,

when Matt Jameson scored a big 3-pointer that got the whole crowd on their feet.

Five minutes into the first play started getting nasty, with multiple battles for the ball under the net and physical play all over the court. It was clear NECC was beyond angry about their abysmal loss to Bristol in the MCCAC tournament.

3-point scoring was abundant this game. Halfway through the first, Kevin Brito scored a 3-pointer that put the Knights up 21-8. Once the team scored over 20 points, the pace slowed down because of the huge lead.

Angelo Pilato had a shining moment in the first half, with a big steal-and-score that put NECC up 25-10. The crowd erupted. Felix Moore and Jameson also had their bright moments in the final minutes of the first, which ended with a score of 46-20, Knights on top.

NECC came out of the locker room for the second half with the same energy they had at the

beginning of the game and broke the 50-point mark in the first two minutes of the half. With 17:30 left in the game, the Knights led 53-26. The big win began twinkling in the players' eyes.

At 3 minutes left the score was 87-65 and then NECC won the playoff game minutes later, 95-70.

The point leaders for the Knights were Brito with 16 points, Dominic Dar and Felix Moore scored 15. Dar also had 4 assists and Moore made 6 of his 9 shot attempts. The Knights as a team scored on 44.4 percent of their 3-point attempts.

The only two players that made an impact for Springfield Tech were Charles Jackson, who scored 32 points, and Emmanuel Ijomah, who scored 22.

The first round feel-good win didn't last too long. The Knights traveled to Springfield a few days later to take on Bristol in the semifinal matchup, but were defeated 78-62. The whole season came to a close but the win



Kevin Brito dribbling down the court.

Photo by Sue MacAvoy

at home against Springfield Tech will stick with the team.

After a hard fought and impressive season, 3 Knights were named to the Region 21 All-Re-

gion team. Matt Jameson of Haverhill made it to the Second Team, while Lowell residents Dominic Dar and Kevin Brito made the Third Team.



Photo by Sue MacAvoy

Trace Schaejbe going up for a shot.



Photo by Sue MacAvoy

Burger King gift card winner posing with the NECC Knight.



Photo by Sue MacAvoy

Matt Lynch fighting off an opponent.

Beyond the box score: Max Mardany

New baseball player looking for a championship

By MICHAEL MAWSON
Correspondent

Max Mardany has his sights set high for him and his fellow Northern Essex Knights Baseball teammates. "Our goal is to win a championship" Mardany said.

Mardany is a second year

business major at Northern Essex and a new addition to the schools ball club, a team that has made 4 consecutive appearances in the NJCAA World Series.

Max, a right handed starting pitcher from Westford Mass., wears number 21 on the diamond. The 21 year old wants to get his fastball speed "up to the mid-90's" as well as becoming "the top pitcher in the league" he said.

Mardany has been baseball

since he was "4 or 5 years old," he said. He started playing the sport because he "had fun doing it" he said.

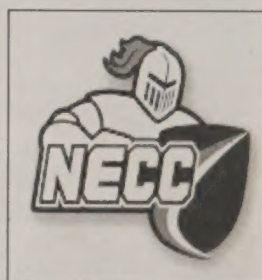
Mardany hopes to continue playing baseball after his Northern Essex baseball career, a few schools that he is looking to join after the spring are UMass Lowell or St. John's, both Division 1 baseball programs.

Robert Barry, a returning member for the Knights baseball

team, spoke highly of his new teammate. "He's a great teammate. His fastball is overpowering for most hitters" Barry said.

"He's also very confident on the mound" said Barry. Barry is also a starting pitcher for the knights.

When it comes to life after playing baseball, Mardany wants to "go into baseball as a coach, or get into business."



Sports

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School comes before boxing

Local boxer puts career on hold for school

By FRANCISCO TEJADA

Correspondent

College may have put his boxing career on hold, but will we see a comeback from local slugger Harrison Gigliotti?

Harrison, also known as "the Hitman," "the Hands," "the Hell-raiser" or just "Gigs," stands 5'9 with a 73" reach and weighs in at 155 pounds.

The 20-year-old Criminology major from Bradford has had 11 amateur bouts between 2012 and 2014 in the 132 lb. and 141 lb. weight divisions. He was a Golden Glove runner up, a New England championship runner up and holds wins and controversial losses over some of the top boxers in New England.

"This is a corrupt sport," Gigliotti said. "I've lost fights I should've won, and even won a couple that could've went the other way. A loss that always haunts me to this day is when I lost the Golden Glove championship match in 2013."

In a back and forth fight, most

people had Gigliotti leading on the scorecards before the last 20 seconds of the bout, before Josh Bourque rattled Gigliotti with his signature big right hand not once not twice but three times. Gigliotti fired back before a controversial 8-count gave Bourque the round and ultimately the fight.

"I thought Harry won the fight, but it was so close and that 8-count was definitely uncalled for," longtime friend of Gigliotti, Journalism major Kyle Wood, said. "He snapped Harry's head back but his legs never wobbled and he was still throwing punches. And even after the 8-count you could still make the argument he won the fight. I think if the ref never did that, he would have won the fight and been a Golden Glove champion."

"It's not so much that I want to beat Bourque, I just want that Golden Glove title," Gigliotti said. "I came up short in all the big ones, and I really feel like I could do it if I had the time. But school has to come first, and boxing isn't a sport you put anything less than 100% into"

Gigliotti was introduced to boxing at a very early age. "I think I was about 8 when my

cousin Jeff brought me to the gym to watch him train."

Jeff "The Hell Raza" Frazza is a 2-time New England champion, once a national champion and a contestant on season 2 of the boxing reality show "The Contender." The show pitted top boxers against each other for a \$500,000 prize and a contract with the big leagues. He retired with a 17-3 record and left a huge mark on Haverhill before his passing in 2012.

"He was my hero and was huge inspiration to not only myself, but the entire New England boxing community," Gigliotti said. "He's the reason I got into boxing. He always told me I could be a champion. I carry his name and legacy into that ring each and every time, and win or lose, I know he is proud of me."

Derek Frazza, brother to the late Haverhill boxer and former boxer/trainer himself, said of Gigliotti, "It's like he doesn't feel pain. No matter how hard you hit him, no matter how tired he is, he comes to fight. He doesn't care who you are, what you've done or how big you are."

"Not a day goes by that I don't think about getting into the ring

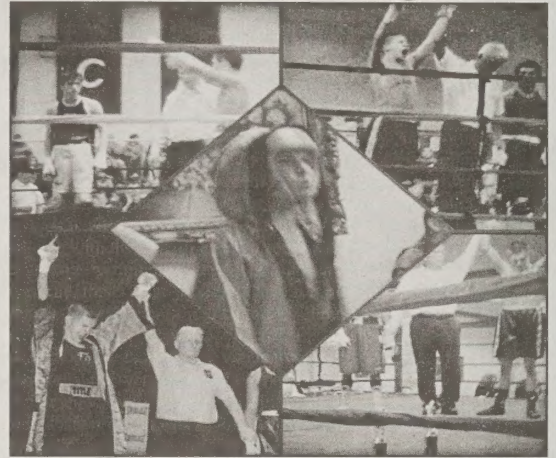


Photo courtesy of Harrison Gigliotti

Gigliotti and his achievements in a collage.

again," Gigliotti said. "There is no better feeling in the world than getting your hand raised. Maybe I can get back into it this summer, take less classes next semester and make a real run at this thing and win the Golden Gloves next winter. I really believe I have what it takes, if I'm focused and I'm in shape working hard, none

of these guys can beat me. My hands are too quick and my chin is too solid."

Confidence is clearly not an issue with Gigliotti. It will be interesting to see if NECC's own will try to come back and make right with himself and capture the title he let slip through his fingers three years ago.

What is going on at the Fitness Center?

Many activities and intramurals available at the fitness center

By NICK PANTINAS

Correspondent

NECC offers many different sports to athletes attending the college. Students who enjoy participating in sports, but don't have the time or the ability to be on a team should know NECC has programs that span many interests and types of sports. Students who are worrying about committing to something should not worry since intramurals are completely optional, and only

take place two or three times a week.

Activities available to students are open gym in the fitness center from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Students also have access to the pool tables in the fitness center and can bring some friends, hang out, and have some fun. There are some organized activities as well. Flag football and dodgeball are some of the team sports that students can participate in.

Maureen Saliba is the organizer of the NECC Intramurals and Recreation program. "In addition to on site activities we also go off campus for recreational trips that include things like ski trips, rock

climbing, etc," Saliba said. "We are always looking to do new interesting things with the students of NECC."

In some cases students do need to pay for their own transportation to the mountain or wherever the event is taking place. However, it is on a case by case basis and depends how close the destination is. For example, if a trip is planned to location nearby such as Methuen or Bradford, then students need to provide their own transportation, but if there is a ski trip in New Hampshire, then the school will provide students with a ride to and from the destination.

The one benefit students can

always count on, is a discount to the planned destination, since attending NECC results in lower prices for the students.

Since intramurals is optional, students can decide which activity they would like to be involved in. Students who don't like the seriousness of sports should know that the intramurals and recreation programs are more relaxed and not as serious. It is still competitive, but an emphasis on teamwork and making friends is what the intramurals are all about.

NECC student, Connor Hemo said, "I'm here whenever I have time, it helps me take my mind off my schoolwork and I get to

have some fun with other students."

Ernie Ewsei, another student attending NECC said, "I just like the fact that it's not serious. I can show up and leave whenever I feel like it. That makes it much less stressful than a team or club that I have to show up and make time for, here I can come and go as I choose."

Another student, Alex Laman-ski said, "I have a few friends at the school and since we're all so busy with our schoolwork and jobs we don't have as much time to hangout. Showing up and playing some sports or pool is a good place to catch up on things."

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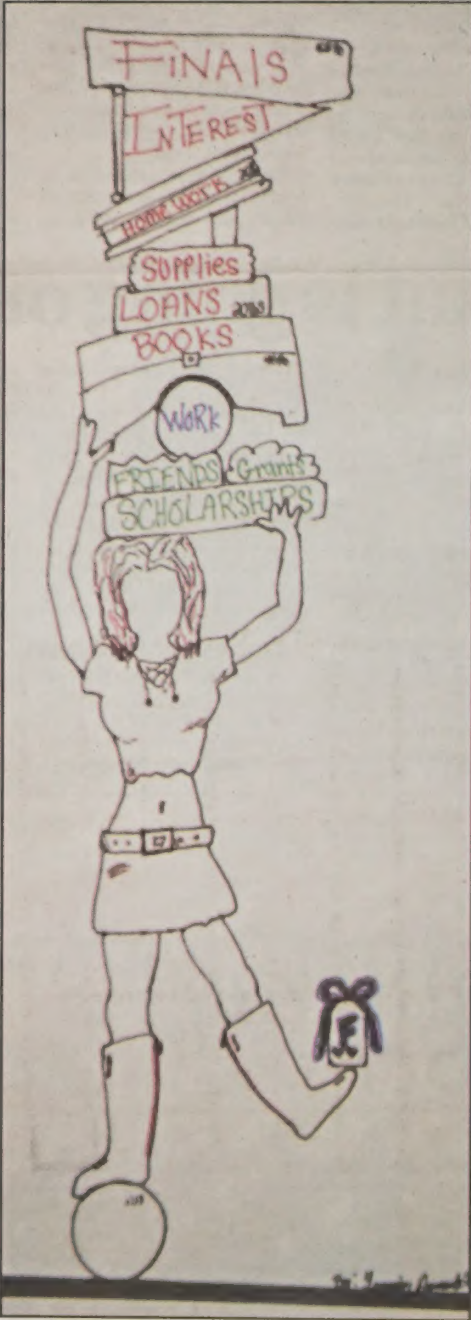
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“Welcome to School”

comic by Yomaris Aponte



“Zootopia” review

By JOWI MELI
Copy Editor

★★★★ (out of four stars)

I can't remember the last time an animated film made me uncomfortable in the way “Zootopia” did during a handful of scenes. That might be because it's been a really long time, but honestly, I'm more inclined to believe it's because no animated film has made me feel this way before.

Now, that might sound like a strange way to start off a four-star review — after all, feelings of discomfort are rarely associated with great times at the movies — but this film challenges its audience in ways I never thought possible under the corporate influence of Disney. Better yet, it does so while being one of their funniest and most gorgeous films.

Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) has dreamed of being a police officer ever since she was a little rabbit growing up on her parents' farm in rural Bunnyburrow. Said parents, keenly aware of the fact that there has never before been a “bunny cop,” advise her to set her sights lower.

“You know why your mom and I ended up so happy?” her father asks. “Because we settled!”

Undeterred by this exchange

— and by all the other resistance she meets along the way — Judy goes on to become the first of her kind, and moves out of home to the big city of Zootopia. Despite an urgent and developing case involving missing animals, surly buffalo boss Chief Bogo (Idris Elba) sticks her on parking duty without a second thought.

Judy's no quitter, in case you haven't figured it out by this point. Hoping her enthusiasm for parking duty will land her in a better position next time, she leaves to hand out a record-breaking number of tickets, in the process running into con-artist fox Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman). Fortunately, Nick seems to have a lead on the important case, but he's also an insufferable cynic and wise guy that wants nothing to do with the investigation.

What follows is the development of a truly adorable relationship: first, one of the snarky back-and-forth variety, as Judy attempts to force Nick into cooperating with the investigation and the latter tries to weasel his way out. As you might expect, though, the two eventually discover they have more in common than they originally thought — a development which could be the recipe for groans and eye-rolls in a different

movie, but is perfectly sweet and enjoyable to witness here. These are two whip-smart and loveable personalities, and the script takes its time bringing them together.

But while “Zootopia” may seem to merely filch the cop-buddy formula, it's got a lot more to offer than just two mismatched characters solving a mystery together. An undercurrent of uncomfortable prejudice runs through earlier scenes, including one where Judy's parents attempt to give her a number of devices to ward off predators, and remains bubbling beneath the surface throughout the rest of the mystery. Just as the film seems to be wrapping up its third act, this theme comes roaring back to life, hitting a note of jarring reality that made me both uncomfortable and emotional — and the aftermath reveals both a hidden layer to Judy's case and a new, even more devastating problem for the plucky heroine to deal with.

Without revealing too much, let me just say that the themes of prejudice and stereotyping really hit home here, in ways I'd never expect an animated film to affect me. This, combined with the humor and fully-realized characters, is especially timely in an era when division seems to be coming back into style.